

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-23, 25-26, 28-29, 31-34, 36-39 and 41-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grabbe (US 4,268,102). Claims 1-10, 16-17, 19-28, 31-34, 36-39 and 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 03/049517. Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 03/049517 in view of Ma (US 6,814,587 B2). Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grabbe (US 4,268,102) in view of Eldrige et al. (US 6,888,362 B2). Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grabbe (US 4,268,102) in view of Neidich et al. (US 6,672,879 B2). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the resilient arm portion is located directly opposite a base portion of the connector housing. When the contact portion is pressed down towards the base portion, the resilient arm portion is configured to move towards the base portion and contact the base portion at the second pivot portion.

In Grabbe, under Fig. 4, the "projection-like portion 88" faces, and will be in contact with, a portion of the "second contact portion 24' ", not the housing. In fact, Grabbe does not explain in the specification what the item 88 is. Nowhere in Grabbe is there a disclosure or suggestion that resilient arm portion (32'+82+84+86) is located directly opposite a base portion of the connector housing such that, when the contact

portion 28' is pressed down towards a base portion of the housing 18', the resilient arm portion (32'+82+84+86) is configured to move towards the base portion of the housing 18' and contact the base portion of the housing 18' at the second pivot portion 88. Just the opposite, projection 88 is clearly only capable of contacting notch 52'. There is no disclosure or suggestion of projection 88 contacting a base portion of the housing 18' which the contact portion 28' is pressed towards. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggest in Grabbe.

WO 03/049517 A1 is applicant's own invention (see MPEP 715.01(c)). In WO 03/049517, as noted on page 5, lines 29-30, and as seen in Fig. 5, "intermediate of the movement of the upper connection region 4 between its first position A and its second position C the beam 9 makes contact with a fulcrum providing region 11". Similar to Grabbe, WO 03/049517 does not disclose a connector contact which moves towards and into direct contact with a base portion of a housing. Claim 1 claims that the resilient arm portion is located directly opposite a base portion of the connector housing. When the contact portion is pressed down towards the base portion, the resilient arm portion is configured to move towards the base portion and contact the base portion at the second pivot portion. WO 03/049517 does not disclose or suggest a resilient arm portion which is located directly opposite a base portion of the connector housing such that when the contact portion is pressed down towards the base portion, the resilient arm portion is configured to move towards the base portion and contact the base portion at a second pivot

portion. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in WO 03/049517. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Independent claim 26 has been amended similar to claim 1. Claim 26 claims that the resilient arm portion is located directly opposite a base portion of the connector housing, and when the contact portion is pressed down towards the base portion, the resilient arm portion is configured to move towards the base portion and contact the base portion at the second pivot portion. The features of claim 26 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 26 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 26 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 26. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Ma is relied on by the Examiner to reject claim 30. It does not appear that Ma discloses the features discussed above.

Eldrige is relied on by the Examiner to reject claim 35. It does not appear that Eldrige discloses the features discussed above.

Neidich is relied on by the Examiner to reject claim 40. It does not appear that Neidich discloses the features discussed above.

Geib appears to show a "protuberance" ("partition 64" in Figs. 3 and 4), as indicated by the Examiner. However, there is an "end portion 52" (Fig. 3) between partition 64 and contacting portion 50. Hence, contacting portion does not face and in contact directly to the housing.

In the previous Office Action (dated September 18, 2006), the Examiner cited US2002/0151194 (Grube) to show the disclosure of a "protuberance 420" (Fig. 7B) on "substrate 416". While this may be considered to disclose "projection 835" (Fig. 8) of the present invention, Grube merely mentions (paragraph 0058) that "...beam 402 may brought into contact with protruding member 420".

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Appl. No.: 10/566,865
Reply to Office Action of: 04/02/2007

Respectfully submitted,

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